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The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus



Beautiful music

Romulus High School band director Mark Fernandez is pleased his students performed well at the recent District 12 Solo and Ensemble Festivals. The musicians earned 16 first division ratings out of 21 events at Livonia Franklin High School, where the competition took place. Above, Fernandez shares the limelight with middle school first division recipients Kaela Torres, Melissa DuFore, Michael Lammers, Derek Bennett and Gary Nemeth. At right, Sheila Reeves and Katie Koester received a first division award for their clarinet duet.



Federal authorities probe laser reports

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Investigators from the Transportation Safety Administration and the FBI are investigating reports of small, red laser lights being shone into the cockpits of two Northwest Airlines preparing to land at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The federal officials have a message for the people responsible for the incident: Stop this dangerous activity immediately.

Two pilots reported seeing red lasers pointed at their planes last week, said Special Agent Paul Breson, spokesman for the FBI.

"We've seen a lot of these cases in the United States since December, and right now there doesn't appear to be any terrorist motive behind the activity," he said. "I'm not sure what would motivate someone to do this, but it's a dangerous situation."

The lights appeared to originate in the area of I-94 and Inkster Road, Breson said.

The investigation includes the Wayne County Airport Police. Michael Conway, the spokesperson for the Airport Authority, said the police will pick up extra patrols and have been informed about the activity.

"I'm not sure what would motivate someone to do this, but it's a dangerous situation."

**Special Agent
Paul Breson**

Romulus police officers are on the lookout for lasers but have not been asked to assist in the ongoing investigation, said Det. Lt. John Leacher.

"We have an agreement that specifies that we would help the TSA (Transportation Safety Authority) if they needed us, but so far, they haven't asked for our assistance," he said.

A spokeswoman for the airport police – the arm of the Metro Detroit Airport Authority that polices Metro Airport – will not say what additional precautions are being implemented, but did say that the investigation had little effect on policing operations on the airport grounds.

"This did happen off airport grounds, and that is why the Wayne County Sheriff's Depart-

See **Laser**, page 3

Winter weather strips salt supply

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

When it rains, it pours. But in this case, it's the snow that's causing all the problems.

Because of heavier-than-usual snowfall during the winter of 2004-05, Romulus was forced to approve a budget amendment that would free up about \$12,000 for more rock salt to use on the 500 miles of local streets.

The new purchase will likely get the city through the rest of the winter season without having to dip into the general fund for assistance, said Carl Brooks, department of public works director.

"It's been tough this year," he said. "We can never tell how much snow we're going to have, but we make our purchases based on what we used in prior years."

This year, three major snowstorms caused the city to use more than 13 tons of salt on Romulus roadways, but the cost of the salt was not the only expenditure residents will have to pay for the winter blast, Brooks said.

"We're a little over the level of overtime we worked last year," he said at the Monday night

See **Salt**, page 3

Service station given 6 months to survive

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A former service station near Wayne and Beverly roads got a reprieve Monday night from the wrecking ball during a public hearing before the regular Romulus City Council meeting.

The former Sutton Service Station, which has been vacant for nearly 30 years, will remain on the city demolition list for blighted properties until the city is satisfied that the new owner, E. Fraser Trevedi, makes some necessary improvements to the front of the building.

Trevedi, who acquired the property from God's City of Refuge in May 2004, said the property was placed on the list because she and church representatives thought paperwork was filed with the city when the purchase took place that would show Trevedi was actively pursuing a viable use for the long-vacant facility.

"I think it was just an over-

sight," she said. "After a quit-claim deed was filed, I assumed they took care of everything with the city, and they assumed the same."

Council members voted unanimously to give Trevedi the opportunity to rehabilitate the property, despite the fact that Building Department Director Randy Welton said the city might be better off moving forward with a demolition.

"I think everything we do to try to get people to rehab is in the best interest of the city," said Councilwoman Debbie Romak, who is seeking election as mayor in November.

Some council members expressed concerns about environmental issues that may exist at the site. Mayor Pro-tem Randolph Gear said he's lived near the site for several years, and can't recall an excavation for the underground gas tanks that would have been installed sometime in the 1950s.

See **Station**, page 3

County hosts hazardous waste day

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Both Inkster and Romulus will take part in the first of three county-wide household hazardous waste days.

The first is scheduled for April 16 from 9 a.m. to p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center at 11111 Wayne Road. There, bins will be available for people to dump things they typically don't toss in their everyday trash, said Muzaffar Lakhani, the director of the Inkster Department of Public Service.

"The type of things that would be brought to an event like this include auto parts, motor oil,

things that are difficult to get rid of," he said. "We're glad to take part in this because it's an environmentally-safe way to dispose of things."

Other items taken in include tires, liquids, small appliances, ink cartridges, and cleaning fluids, Lakhani said.

This year, the Wayne County Department of Environment's Land Resource Management Division will offer a few freebies to get people to turn in hazardous materials. For every mercury thermometer turned in, a digital one will be provided free of charge, while supplies last.

Romulus City Councilman Leroy Burcroff said he hopes

people will take advantage of this opportunity to help keep the environment safe and clean.

"We encourage everyone to attend this event – it's a good way to make sure these types of materials are taken care of," he said Monday night at the Romulus City Council meeting.

Dates for the other three collection dates have not been scheduled, said Lakhani.

The event is free of charge for all who attend, according to Wayne County.

For more information, please call the Mary Vangieson, the resource recovery coordinator at the Wayne County Department of Environment at (734) 326-4421.

High school students plan fundraising telethon

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The second annual "TigerThon" will soon reach TV screens through WBHS Channel 19 and the staff is looking for the finest talent in the area to showcase.

About 200 students from the Belleville High School media production classes and the TEC Club will put together a show of local performers, special "Behind the Scenes" features on businesses and organizations and a live auction.

The telethon will be shown live on WBHS Channel 19 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday March 19, as well as through webcast on www.wbhs.tv. The "TigerThon 2005" schedule will include live performances by students, teachers and other local entertainment.

Station Director Steve Wilson said the students are hoping that community businesses will sponsor various portions of the 12-hour show, divided into 30 minute and one hour blocks. Each hour of

"These essential pieces of equipment will allow students to capture and edit video digitally and create DVD productions."

Steve Wilson

programming will have a theme, such as "local businesses" or "clubs and organizations." They will also feature specially produced programs and interviews about the topic.

Funds raised will help pay for new equipment, DVD yearbooks, the interactive educational programming and go to graduates as they move on to their careers, according to Wilson.

Last year, the telethon generated more than \$7,000 in community pledges. This year, Wilson said students are hoping to reach their goal of \$10,000.

"These essential pieces of equipment will allow students to capture and edit video digitally and create DVD productions," he said. "The students hope to use the new gear to produce multimedia lessons for the classrooms, create new programming that features special behind the scenes things and offer a DVD production service to the community to transfer their VHS videotapes to DVD."

Students continue to look for local groups to serve as entertainment and for donations to hold the televised auction. Organizations are encouraged to volunteer to appear in short segments and tell the community what kind of activities they participate in. Local businesses that donate goods or gift certificates can have their business featured in live interviews or videotaped features.

For more information about the telethon, to sponsor, make a donation, or to be a guest on the show, contact Wilson at 734-697-9133 or mrsteve@wbhs.tv.



From the heart

Fifth grader Amanda Humpich, who is the student council president, and fourth grader Deseree Clemons, who is the vice-president of student council, recently presented Speech Therapist Cheryl Martin with a \$400 check for the Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. The school participated in the hospital program, which offers an organization to sell bracelets for \$2, which one dollar goes to Mott's and the other dollar goes to the organization selling the bracelets. Savage students decided to donate all the proceeds of the bracelet sales to the hospital. The school sold all 200 bracelets in only 10 days. "It was amazing how these students were so willing to donate to a good cause," said Nick Maniaci, principal at Savage Elementary. "We all decided that it was the right thing to do to donate all \$400 to the hospital."

THE CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the following projects and service/s.

Bid 04/05-24 2005 Merriman Road Enhancement - City Project

Removal of existing walks, drives, curb, pavement where indicated. Installation of concrete sidewalk, pedestrian lighting and underground power distribution, irrigation, signage, topsoil, grading, landscaping and drainage improvements along Merriman Road Right-of-Way and median from I94 to Ecorse Road.

Bid 04/05-25 Merriman Road Enhancement - MDOT Project

Landscaping along Merriman Road Right-of way between I94 & Ecorse Road on either side of the road and in the median. Work to be performed includes planting of trees, shrubs, ground cover, flowers & sodded lawn.. Funds from the Federal Highway Transportation program will partially fund this project. As a result contractors are required to comply with Federal Labor Standard Provisions, Equal Opportunity Requirements and Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements.

Bid 04/05-26 Merriman Road Landscape Maintenance Contract

Contractual Services Contract for the maintenance of the landscape improvements to be located along the Merriman Road Right-of-way and median from I-94 to the intersection of Ecorse Road.

Qualified firms wishing to submit bids can obtain forms on or after February 25, 2005 upon deposit of a \$20.00, which is non-refundable, from:

Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, Inc.
300 E. Cady St.
Northville, MI 48167

Please call (248) 347-7010 before picking up plans and specifications or with questions concerning the scope or general outline of each of the bids.

Proposals must be on forms furnished by Landscape Architect and be accompanied by Bid Bond or Certified Check equaling five (5%) percent of the proposal submitted.

Submit proposals in sealed envelopes and return them to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2005. All bids will be publicly opened, and read aloud.

PROPOSAL ENVELOPES MUST BE SEALED AND CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE
BID NAME & # _____
1111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan, 48174

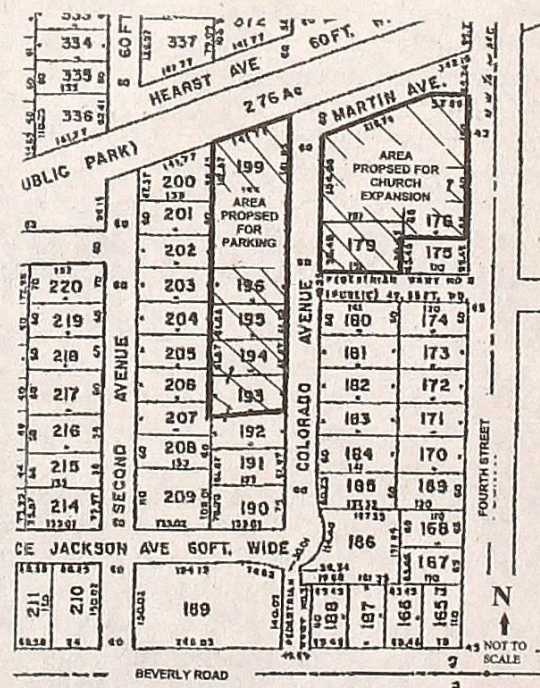
The City of Romulus reserves right to reject any or all Bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any informalities therein, in accordance with MDOT 2003 Standard Specifications.

Publish: March 3, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED CHURCH AND PARKING LOT ADDITION

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005**, for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use proposal. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to construct a 8,050 square foot addition to the existing church facility, with a 90 parking space lot. The property is zoned R1-B, Single Family Residential District located on the west side of Fourth Street north of Beverly Road, (commonly known as 6200 Fourth) Parcel #'s 82-80-013-02-0176-000, DP#82-80-013-02-0177-000, 82-80-013-02-0178-000, 82-80-013-02-0179-000, 82-80-013-02-0192-000, 82-80-013-02-0195-300, 82-80-013-02-0199-300, 82-80-013-02-0199-301. Churches are permitted in the R1-B, Single Family Residential District subject to special land use approval. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2005, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: March 3, 2005



Brightest and best

Eleven students were presented certificates recently at Cory Elementary School in Romulus. The students, all of whom earned a grade point average of 3.5 and higher, were given their certificates at a special event at the school. Shown here are (first row) Leticia Gittens, Kayla Bryk, Gabrielle Miller, Misty Briscoe, Macee Logerstedt, and (second row) Jordan Ditsch, Courtney Thomas, Azia Riley, Brianna Glenn, Jonathan Stone and Steven Pratt. Several other students received ribbons for academic achievement, including 16 students at Romulus Elementary School. They are: Keli Boyd, Tyler Gray, Desiree Kassa, Fred McAnally, Eddie Hitchings, Victoria Johnson, Amanda Linnert, Symonne Martin, Jayne McClellan, Sydney Bayer, Steven Nemeth, Reyonna Hollands, Brittany Frances, Jamal Eiland, Dominique Whitlow, and Kayla Patterson.

Salt - Snow out stripped city supplies, resources

FROM PAGE 1

council meeting. "But we did a good job getting the snow off the streets."

But the good news is that from a budget standpoint, the city figures in the cost of wages on a worst-case-scenario basis, Brooks said.

The winter started out fairly

calm in October, when on .1 inches of snow blanketed metro Detroit. But by December, the first of three winter storms dropped 12.5 inches on southeast Michigan in one evening. The normal snowfall for the entire month of December is historically about 12.8 inches, according to data from the National Weather Service. In January, 26.9 inches

of snow fell, which is more than twice the customary 11.7 inches of snow that usually falls.

The high level of activity has strained city financial and human resources, Brooks said.

"We're just going to hope that it doesn't snow again," he said. "But I think the additional amount of salt will help us get through what's left of winter."

Station - Encouraging repairs is best for city

FROM PAGE 1

"I think this could be a long process because it's unknown whether the tanks exist," he said. "There might also be some environmental remediation that is needed on the property before anything can be done (with the site)."

Trevedi said she is unsure what use the property could have in the future and said she has

worked out an agreement for Wayne State University to take a survey of residents living in the area to determine what they would like to see at the site.

"I think the people who live in the neighborhood should be part of the process," she said.

Environmental remediation on the property could take several years. Trevedi would have to hire a subcontractor to remove the dormant gas tanks from the

ground, then have the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality perform tests to make sure there is no contamination at the site.

Romak said the site that if a developer was not interested in the property, the site could present a problem for the city.

"If we demolished it, then we'd have to take care of the remediation and have those tanks removed," she said.

Study should answer recreation questions

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus City Council members voted unanimously to hire a company to help the city determine a beneficial management plan and overall programming for the soon-to-be-constructed recreation facility.

The agreement will allow JRV Management, a sports planning company in Dearborn, to help the city determine whether or not the facility should be managed by a separate entity, what features the new facility should include, and how members of the community will be charged to use the facility, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"There are so many different ways to look at this, and I think this study will help us sort out how we want to approach this," he said. "We've always had a recreation department, but operating a facility is new to us."

The city will pay \$6,500 for the study, according to paperwork submitted by Lambert for council approval.

Lambert and other city council members spent the better part of last week visiting other area recreation facilities to see what works - and doesn't work - in other communities.

"There were some simple things that we never would have noticed that will make a big difference," said Mayor Pro-tem Randolph Gear. "At one facility, we saw a floor that was designed in a way that was not completely smooth, and I saw some people trip over it," he said. "So now we know we have to have a smooth floor."

Council members visited facilities in Flat Rock, Southgate and Livonia, and are scheduled to visit more, Lambert said.

But most importantly, the analysis should give the city pointers on how to keep the center financially solvent, said city Economic Development Director Tim Keyes.

Some officials said they are concerned about the facility being a drain on the already-tight financial resources of the city. But Keyes said the study will help the city determine what rates should be charged to residents to help the facility support itself.

Also at issue are other potential avenues to self-sufficiency, like naming rights. In Flat Rock,

the recreation center was named the Automotive Alliance Center after that company - an automotive supplier - pledged more than \$6 million to help operate the facility and finance programs that Tax

Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) dollars could not. The Romulus facility is also being financed by TIFA dollars.

In turn, employees of Automotive Alliance get free memberships to the facility, and the company is approved to use the facility on a regular basis for meetings and events, said Lambert.

The city announced plans to build a recreation center two months ago. The current plan calls for renovating a building on Wayne and Northline roads and acquiring the adjacent 11 acres for added facilities. City officials finalized the deal for the additional land Tuesday.

There are so many different ways to look at this, and I think this study will help us sort out how we want to approach this.

Mayor Alan Lambert

Lasers - Could mean felony arrests

FROM PAGE 1

ment is assisting with the investigation," said Barbara Hogan of the airport public affairs office.

Lasers - even from a long distance - have the potential to obstruct a pilot's vision if the beam shines directly into the cockpit, Breson said. But when a pilot diverts his eyes from the beam, that means he could potentially miss other obstacles - which makes a dangerous situation worse, he said.

Though the perpetrators may think the lights are a harmless prank, law enforcement officials take the laser incidents seriously - especially in the heightened security environment at airports since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Interfering with an aircraft in any way is a federal felony punishable by up to 20 years in

prison, according to Breson.

Metro Detroit is not the only city that has been affected by the lasers. National and local media outlets in Cleveland and Dallas have reported similar incidents, Breson said.

"I'm not sure if it's media coverage, or what is spurring this," he said.

"But it has to stop. It could create an accident. It's a very serious situation. But it seemed to spike in December."

In Newark, where one of the incidents occurred, David Banach was charged with one federal count of interfering with an aircraft and one count of making false statements to investigators.

No other arrests have been made in any other cities where the laser incidents have occurred, Breson said.



Good deeds

John Barden, executive assistant to County Executive Robert A. Ficano, took some time out to provide a group of about 20 students from Cory Elementary the opportunity to visit the Black History Month celebration at the county building on Randolph Street in Detroit. Here, he is shown with several of the students and teachers who made the trip, along with Cory Principal Phyllis Adkins (left of Barden).

College hosts anti-aging speakers

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Wayne County Community College District is educating a different group of people this month as residents of all ages flock to the campus for a lecture series on the cosmetic surgery.

Entitled "How to Dampen the Aging Process: The Pluses of Cosmetic Surgery," the series offers the general public the opportunity to learn more about topics ranging from weight management to lip enhancement from doctors in each field of expertise.

The brainchild of WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivery, the series began as a way of drawing individuals who are not normally affiliated with the school in for visit.

"This whole makeover craze is

out there," he said.

Since people seem to be fascinated by the changes wrought by plastic surgery, he decided that it was the perfect time to help the public learn a little more about it.

With that in mind, four different doctors with expertise in the field were lined up to speak, and the series launched on Feb. 22. From the beginning, Ivery said, the response was almost overwhelming. College officials had expected an audience of about 25 people for the first session, which dealt with the topic of massive weight loss and cosmetic procedures to achieve it, with the crowds increasing as the public became aware of the program. The first week, more than 100 people showed up.

"I did not expect the response would be so large," said Ivery.

The program remained popular as people stopped by the campus the following week to learn more about tummy tucks and breast reduction and augmentation. For the third lecture, which will be presented by the "Diet Doctor"—Dr. Bill Nagler—next week, Ivery said that the response has been almost overwhelming.

"We've had so many people register that now we're turning people away," he said.

However, there are still a few spaces remaining for the March 16 presentation on lower eyelid and cheek lifts, lip enhancements, and chemical peels by Dr. Manish Raj Gupta. Space is limited, so pre-registration is recommended. The presentation will take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Women's Resource Center of the Western Campus. The center is located at

9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville.

Despite its name, the series will also touch on the problems and disadvantages that can accompany cosmetic surgery as the physicians speak openly about the risks associated with some of the procedures.

The event will feature the scheduled lecture and the audience will have the opportunity ask questions at the end.

To register for the free presentation, individuals should contact Wayne County Community College at (313) 496-2704. It is limited to individuals 18 years old or older. The Wayne County Community College District Continuing Education Division is the sponsor of the series. Because of the interest generated by the series so far, Ivery said that they are planning a similar series

Soon to wed



Kathryn Priebe and Joseph W. O'Kelley

Priebe-O'Kelley

Fred and Bonita Priebe of Belleville have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Joycelyn Priebe, to Joseph W. O'Kelley.

The bride elect is a graduate of Lutheran High Westland and was a People to People Student Ambassador to Australia and Scandinavian countries. She is employed at JCPenney in Westland.

The future groom is the son of Daniel and Carol O'Kelley of Belleville. He is a graduate of Belleville High School and is employed with Environmental Quality Industrial Services as a field technician in the Ypsilanti area.

The Rev. Robert Schultz will officiate at the June nuptials at the home of the bride's parents in Belleville.

Local civic groups help stock library shelves

The shelves at the Wayne Public Library are getting more and more full, thanks to the efforts of some community organizations.

The Wayne Civitans and the Wayne Rotary Clubs are each in the middle of a literacy campaign that's brought dozens of new titles to the library, according to Library Director Lois Van Stipdonk.

"It's really wonderful," she

said. "It's a blessing to everyone in Wayne."

The Rotary Club donates a book to the library each week, in honor of whoever speaks at the weekly club meetings, according to Van Stipdonk. The Civitans have also promoted literacy. They put on a reading program to every third grade class in the city and provide books in honor of those who help out at events or through their Good Kids, Good

Citizens programs.

When the Civitans hosted a Special Olympics basketball camp recently, they purchased books to donate for each of the six coaches who helped out during that event, Van Stipdonk said.

The Grand Giveaway is another source of material for the library, according to Civitans President Don Hartford.

"Everyone that buys a ticket gets a book donated in their

name," Hartford said. "Literacy is one of the things we really push as a club."

Since the group sells 170 tickets for the \$10,000 raffle, that means another 170 books are on the way, according to Dee Ryan, a member of the Friends of the Library.

"We are overwhelmed," she said. "We cannot thank the Wayne Civitans enough for their generous gift."

SUPER SAVINGS!

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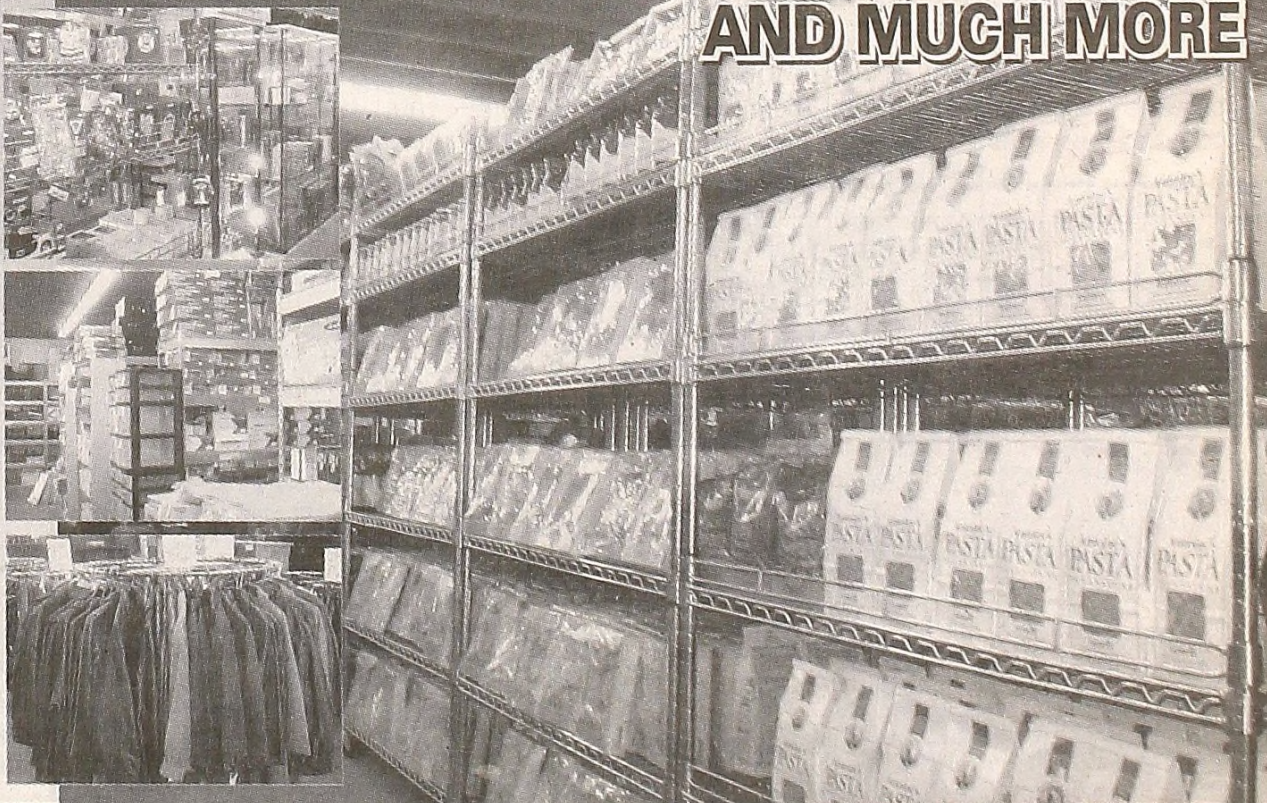
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OPINION

No child left behind except...

Webster's New World college dictionary defines 'buffoonery' as the actions of someone who is always clowning around or trying to be funny.

We'd like to add our own definition beneath that: the act of taking away funding for a vital service that helps diversify the economy and prepare young people for the future.

It's what school officials face through the proposed upcoming federal budget – there's a potential for districts to lose federal Perkins monies, which fund programs like Upward Bound and career/vocational classes.

Here are two programs designed to appeal to a wide range of students that some might consider non-traditional – Upward Bound is geared toward students who will be the first in their families to attend college. Career technical programs help students prepare for high-tech jobs or other careers not necessarily on the typical college career path. Both provide inspiration for students to stay in school and stay productive after they graduate, whether they move on to college or not.

It's strange that such a proposal would come at a time when most politicians are talking about the need to better prepare students for the future, when the economy itself is suffering in part from a lack of manufacturing jobs and the very concept of No Child Left Behind has virtually become an educational cliché.

Representatives from local school districts will attend a national policy seminar next week to determine the impact that this could have on their own programs and to lobby for the funding to allow them to continue.

We wish them Godspeed, as well as a good audience. These programs are important because they help educators reach a broader spectrum of students. Besides, school officials have enough to worry about, given the expanding ratio between their costs and their revenues. They shouldn't have to be concerned with this loss in funding, too.

These are good neighbors

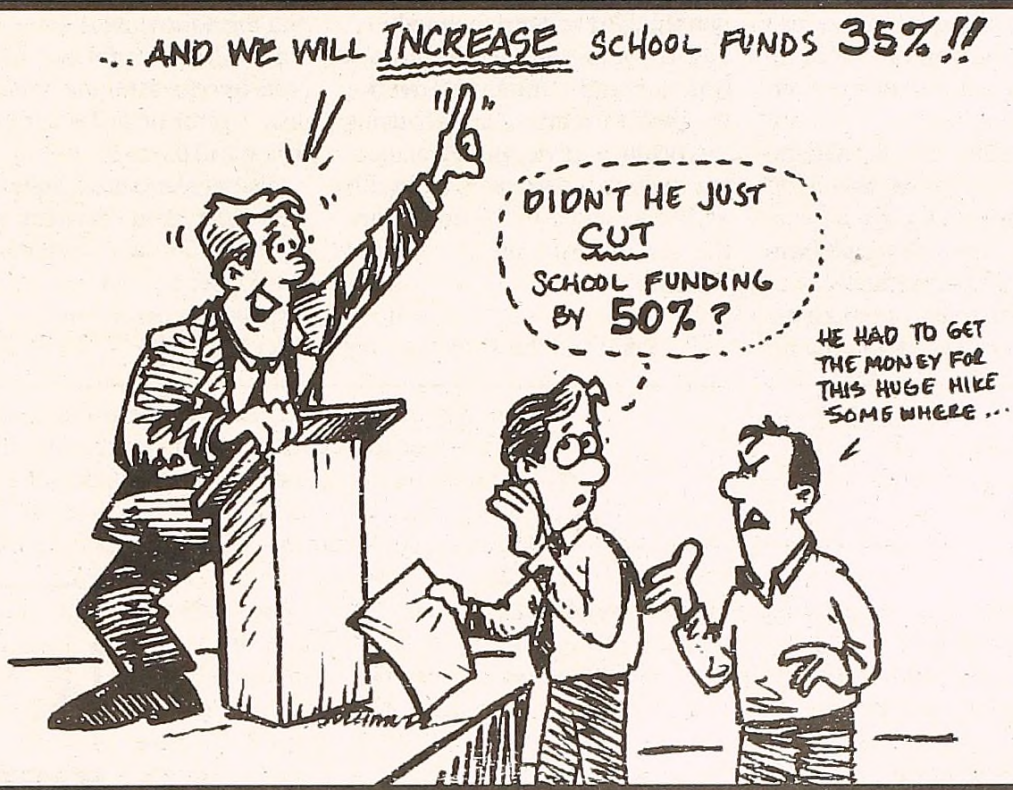
The proposal submitted to Northville Township by Real Estate Investments, (REI) Inc. for the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital property is guaranteed to cause a lot of discussion and debate.

The developers are submitting an early version of the plan to both the township planning commission and the board of trustees on Monday, in a joint informational meeting designed to tell each side where the other stands.

No matter what, there will be some who like it and some who don't. It's an important project, after all, containing more than 420 acres of prime property in a much-sought-after community and it will set the tone for the township for the foreseeable future. It will, in fact, impact more than just the township. A ripple effect of the development could impact the city and the school district, too, depending on what is proposed and most importantly, how much development takes place.

That's why the early stages of this project have been so encouraging. Officials from the township, the city, the schools and the business community are all on relatively the same page about it: they want to see something that won't overburden them as far as providing services and won't hinder their neighbors as far as the potentially negative eco-

See Deal, page 6



Mixed messages just aren't 'cool'

For much of its short life, the Wayne 2020 Committee has received mixed messages.

For those who don't know, it started last year, having grown out of the Cool Cities Initiative put forth by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. It was an indication that the City of Wayne bought into the program on a long-term basis and wanted to improve its neighborhoods and revitalize its downtown area.

Committee members brought plenty of good ideas to the table, too, only to find out that they had missed the budget cycle and would have to wait a year to try to implement most of them. That in itself wasn't all bad – it gave them the opportunity to further refine those ideas, like the concept of bringing public art downtown, and bring a more complete package to city officials. Even so, it has to be difficult to be a part of a new committee, full of excitement and enthusiasm and ideas about how to improve your community and not see an immediate impact.

Now they've received a mixed message from the state: the city isn't eligible to apply for the same type of grants the Wayne 2020 Committee applied for last year. Due to changes in the program – that took place, apparently, without any public input – they've been essentially legislated out of some unique opportunities.

The Cool Cities Pilot Program,

which provided \$100,000 catalyst grants to create neighborhoods that make urban centers magnets for jobs and people, has been changed to the Neighborhoods in Progress program, and is only open to municipalities which host a two or four-year institution of higher learning. There are only 30 that meet the criteria.

There are other programs that fall under the Cool Cities umbrella: a Main Street program that requires a full time manager, a Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns that requires a 50/50 match – and is only open to 10 municipalities – and a Blueprints for Michigan Neighborhoods which excludes Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Thanks a lot.

It comes just short of sending the message: thanks for your interest, but don't waste our time, but it clearly says the state has more important cities to try to convert – like those with the funding for additional personnel and that can set aside chunks of surplus money. It changes the bar of what can be considered cool and what can't and communities like Wayne and Westland have dropped off the list.

I guess we can throw away our sunglasses – and maybe our rose-colored ones, too.

The two cities took different approaches to the issue. Westland applied for the grant anyway, in hopes of further grant

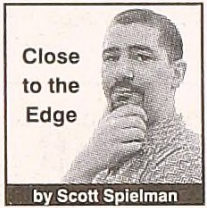
consideration and Wayne Mayor Al Haidous sent a letter expressing disappointment in the abrupt change that pointed out that a year ago, Wayne was considered a core community and now they're, by definition, not cool.

The good thing is that both are going forward with their plans, anyway. Maybe that's the best way to approach it: ignore all the posturing and posing from state officials and just work together on a local level where the enthusiasm is more contagious – and sincere.

It would be nice, though, as members of the Wayne 2020 Committee get together, to see more response from the citizenry. I mean, here's a group of people whose sole purpose is to promote and better the city. What can be better than that? And yet there has been very little attendance and public comment.

I suppose I am, in part, to blame. I vowed to provide continued coverage of the committee, even though I couldn't take part as a member and I haven't been to one meeting since. That was a year ago.

So let's all get together and rally behind this worthy effort. For the record, they meet at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday at city hall. Sunglasses aren't required.



by Scott Spielman

It's time for a change in minimum wage

A lot will be said about raising the minimum wage in Michigan now that Gov. Jennifer Granholm has supported an initiative to do just that.

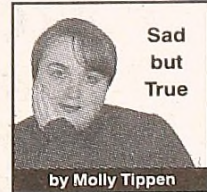
A bill is currently in the works – courtesy of Rep. Dianne Byrum (D-Ingham County) that would, over a period of two years, raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.15. In western Wayne County, support among elected officials for such an initiative appears to be drawn along

party lines, with Democrats lauding the bill as a victory for workers, and Republicans warning that such a measure would hinder job creation, which would further devastate Michigan's stagnant economy.

Normally, when the division is clear among members of both parties, the truth is usually in the middle. In this case, it's not. Raising the minimum wage for the nearly 100,000 Michiganders earning \$5.15 and hour is the

right thing to do.

The \$2 per hour raise would be the first time in nine years the wage was raised in Michigan. In fact, the \$2 raise would still not put these workers on par with the rate of inflation during the past nine years, which tells us something that doesn't take an analyst to understand: there are many



by Molly Tippen

See Wage, page 6

JOURNAL

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Letters

Civilians earn gratitude

To the editor:

Each year the Wayne Civilians have a fundraising event they call their 'Grand Giveaway,' with all the proceeds going to one of their favorite causes.

This year their Grand Giveaway is to us, and what a gift it is. Everyone who buys a ticket to this year's fundraiser will have a book donated to the Wayne Public Library in his or her name. So far, 170 books were purchased

and will be given to the library.

We cannot thank the Wayne Civilians enough for their generous gift. We are overwhelmed!

Lois VanStipdonk, the library director, and Paulette Medvecky, the youth librarian, are selecting the books and we, the Friends of the Wayne Library, along with everyone who uses the library, are the happy and most grateful recipients.

Dee Ryan

Friends of the Wayne Library

Editor's note: The Civilians Grand Giveaway takes place at 6 p.m. tomorrow.

Tickets are \$200, which provides admission for two and provides one ticket for the raffle with a grand prize of \$10,000. Only 169 tickets will be sold.

The event funds Civilians projects throughout the year, including their literacy campaign and work with the Special Olympics.

Tickets can be ordered by calling (734) 721-0024.

Deal

FROM PAGE 5

conomic impact that a large commercial and retail component could have.

It's a good start, and hopefully, it will be enough.

Township officials are right to be wary of the development, too, because it could turn into another situation whereby the State of Michigan sheds its burden onto a local community. The sale of the property was initially proposed - more than two years ago - to help solve some budgetary deficits

the state faces. That caused officials to seek the a large price for the land, which in turn will cause the developers to try and put more on it to get a return on their investment. The township - and the surrounding community - could be caught in the middle.

The best way to approach the impending development is the track the officials are already taking: with baby steps, and ensuring that everyone is of a like mind at all stages of it. The development and its potential to impact the community is too important to do otherwise.

Wage

FROM PAGE 5

thousands of workers stuck at a level of pay that cannot support their needs, no matter how minimal those needs are. This comes at a time when jobs people in the minimum wage bracket might pursue - like factory work and higher-level retail work - are leaving the state in droves.

Think about it. An average apartment in Westland runs about \$550 per month. Someone who supports themselves on \$5.15 an hour and works full time would earn \$206 per week. That person would be in a 15 percent tax bracket, which would pare their weekly check to about \$175.

Let's say they are paid four times per month, for a total of \$700. That \$150 not swallowed by rent would have to pay for groceries, gasoline, auto insurance and utility payments - and that's if they aren't burdened with a car loan. Or children. Or health concerns not covered by insurance. Or any number of costly circumstances that crop up from time to time, like home or car repairs.

Pundits that say increasing the minimum wage should be avoided so businesses aren't hurt should consider this: Every state in the union that has raised the minimum wage to the \$7 level has seen its economy improve. Illinois, Florida,

Nevada (the hottest economy in the union right now), New York and Maine are among those states. Michigan, on the other hand, is tied with Alaska for the highest unemployment level in the country, at 7.3 percent.

In 1996, the last time the rate was raised, Michigan was the posterchild of a successful state economy - that didn't change because the minimum wage was raised.

The concept is simple. People who have more money will spend more money on the necessities, and perhaps some luxuries, of life. The Bureau of Labor Statistics released a study in 2002 that indicates that about 400,000 people earn more than the minimum wage, but less than \$7.15. The bill would help them, too. By giving people a raise, the state would increase the likelihood that the working poor could take a more active role as consumers - which is desperately needed if the state is to change its economic outlook.

The issue here is not only about economics, it's about fairness. An honest day's work deserves and honest day's pay. To keep hardworking people in a vacuum they cannot possibly get out of is unconscionable.

There are many people who believe the number of people working at a minimum wage job is too few to care about. But the people working at these jobs certainly care.



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By the look on her face, student Ashley Jackson would rather see the baby fruit bat from behind a glass window in the Cranbrook museum.

Students go batty

Sarah Louise Kearns, head keeper with the Organization for Bat Conservation at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, made a visit to Rawsonville Elementary School recently to educate students about the importance of bats in the world ecosystem. Students were treated to an up-front look at Cassie, a brown bat indigenous to Michigan; Gambit, an African flying fox; and a Central American baby fruit bat from South America. Kearns also provided information on sponsoring a bat through the Cranbrook Bat Zone. Along with sponsoring a bat, participants get an adoption certificate, email updates on their bat, special invitations to visit their particular bat, a one-year subscription to The Bat Conservation Journal and more.



Second graders Samantha Endicott and Virginia Leinonen marvel at the African flying fox as Kearns, head keeper for Bat Conservation at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, holds on tightly.



Student Amanda Riggs isn't quite sure what to think of the up close and personal encounter with Gambit, an African flying fox.

PUBLIC NOTICE THE ROMULUS HOUSING COMMISSION

The Romulus Housing Commission has developed its Annual Plan and Five-Year Plan for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2005 in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Commission's Office located at 34200 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan.

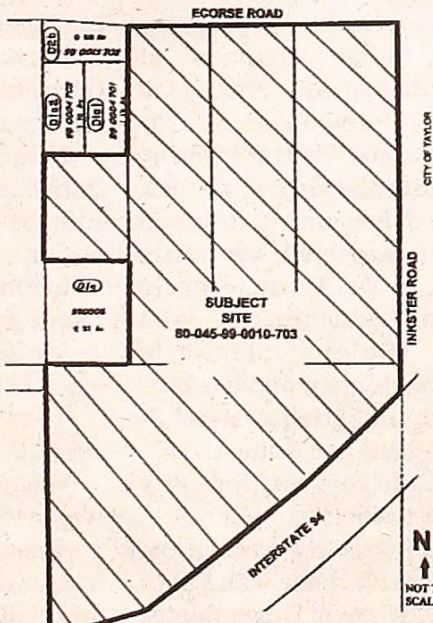
The Commission's hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, a public hearing will be held on April 18, at 11:00 a.m. in the office of the Commission. Everyone is invited.

Publish: March 3, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SPECIAL LAND USE BRINE DISPOSAL WELL AND ACCESSORY FACILITIES

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use proposal. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to establish a brine disposal well and accessory facilities located on the west side of Inkster Road south of Ecorse Road DP# 82-80-045-99-0001-703. The parcel is zoned MT-2, Industrial Transportation 2 District. Deep well injection facilities are permitted in the MT-2, Industrial Transportation 2 District, subject to Special Land Use Approval. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interest parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2005, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

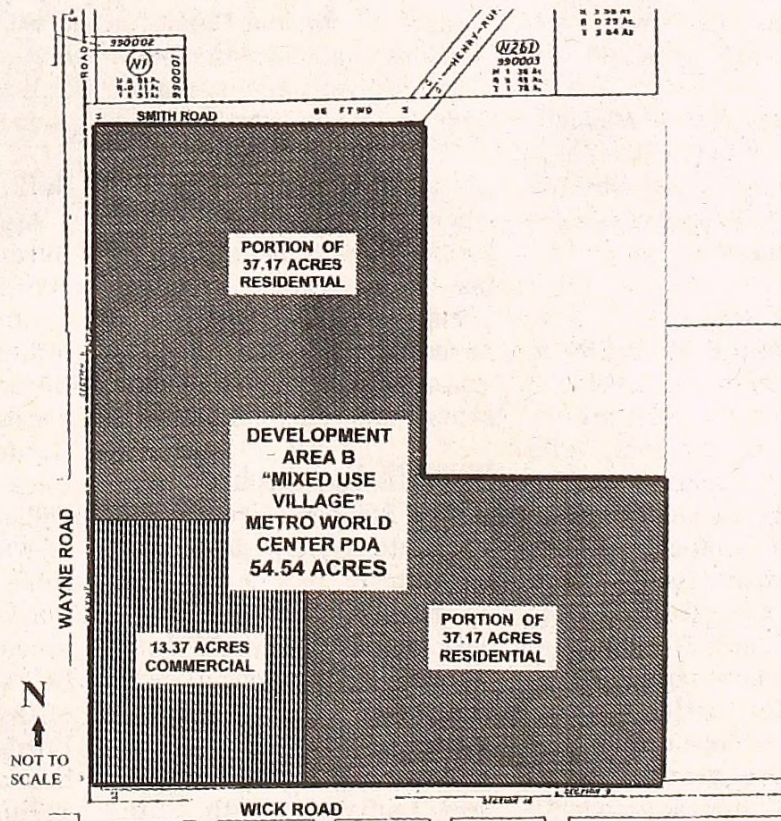
Publish: March 3, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SPEACIAL LAND USE OF A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AREA (MIXED USE COMMERCIAL AND MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT)

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 207 of 1921, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), and the Metro world Centre Planned Development Agreement, notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use proposal. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a preliminary site plan request to develop the entire Development Area B – Mixed-Use Village of the Metro World Planned Development project. The proposal includes approximately 13.77± acres of commercial and 37.17± acres of single family attached residential development. The development area is located on the northeast corner of Wick and Wayne Roads, DP#s 82-80-033-99-0006-701 (western portion), 82-80-034-99-0006-000 (western portion).

The property is zoned Planned Development Area with an RC, Regional Center underlying zoning. A proposal to mix residential and commercial development in this development area is permitted subject to special use approval by the Planning Commission. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 16, 2005, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: March 3, 2005

OBITUARIES

WARTELLA, Paul

Paul David Lynn Wartella, 31, of Belleville, died Feb. 8.

Among his survivors are his daughter, Madilyn Grace Buletza-Wartella of Ludington; his parents, Paul Jay Wartella of Jackson and Joan Marie Gutierrez of Belleville; two half-sisters, and his companion, Sherrie Roach of Westland.

Mr. Wartella was employed at the Oakdale Recovery Center as a patient care advocate.

Father Jack Baker celebrated a funeral mass for Mr. Wartella at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

JANUSZYK, Alexander

Alexander S. Januszyk, 83, of Sumpter Township, died Feb. 17.

Among his survivors are his children, Beverly (Leslie) Powell and Joseph (Christy) Januszyk, all of Belleville; grandchildren, Jennifer (Chris) Scott, Noel Scihadeh and Tarick Scihadeh, and great-grandchildren, Leslie Scott, Brittnay Scott, Samantha Scott and Christina Scott.

Mr. Januszyk retired from the Livonia Ford Motor Co. plant in 1982. He was a member of the UAW, the PLAV, the VFW and the 50+ Club of Lewiston, the widows and widowers WOW Club of Lewiston, PNA and Sumpter Fire Department.

Mr. Januszyk served in the U.S. Air Force as a gun sight specialist on B-24 aircraft as well as a power turret during World War II. As a staff sergeant, he was stationed in England for 18 months and was also part of the Eighth Air Force in the 44th Bomb Group.

Funeral services were at St. Anthony Catholic Church with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Entombment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

RAYBURN, Clyde

Clyde Estill Rayburn, 89, of Sumpter Township, died Feb. 12.

Among his survivors are his wife of nearly 68 years, Della (Maddox); his children, Geneva Jackson of Belleville, Ray (Mary) Rayburn of Clinton Township, David (Barbara) Rayburn and Daniel Rayburn, all of Belleville; brothers, George Rayburn and Bertram Rayburn, both of Laurel, Ind.; a sister, Lettie Riley of Mansfield, Ohio; 13 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rayburn was retired from the Ford Motor Co. Ypsilanti Plant after 27 years of employment.

Funeral services were at Willis Baptist Church, where Mr. Rayburn was a member, with Pastor Jim McKinnies officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

LITTLE, Betty Sue

Betty Sue Little, 64, of Inkster, died Feb. 11.

Among her survivors are her husband of nearly 44 years, Mickey Little; children, Peggy Sue (George) Peters of Wayne, Patricia Ann (Tony) Stewart of Inkster; twins, Harold and Darrell Little, both of Dearborn Heights and Tammy Marie (Steven) Sears of Inkster; siblings, Ilma Miller and Florence Brickly, both of Xenia, Ohio, Douglas Tackert of Pikeville, Ky., Thelma Robinson of Little Robinson, Ken. and Wilma Millins, also of Pikeville, Ky., and six grandchildren.

Mrs. Little was a member of the Morning Star Old Regular Baptist Church in Belleville.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Elder Willis Little and Elder Ralph Caudill officiating.

Interment was at Huron Valley Cemetery in Flat Rock.

CHAPP, Patricia A.

Patricia A. Chapp, 86 of New Boston, died Feb. 11 in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Among her survivors are her children, Jerome A. (Paulette) Chapp of Ft. Myers, Fla., James L. (Vicki) Chapp of Cape Coral, Fla., Jeranne Jackson of New Boston, Jane M. (Ken) Pawlowski of Longwood, Fla., Jeanine T. (Mark) Pennington of Livonia and Justine F. (Dan) Russow of New Boston; a sister, Jane Rissi of Traverse City; 18 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Chapp and her late husband, Jerome, owned and operated Chapp Oil Co. She was a member of the Huron Township Seniors, St. Vincent DePaul in Romulus and a former member of the festival committee at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Father Alexander Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church, where Mrs. Chapp was a member, celebrated a funeral mass for her.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

HORVATH, Paul Stephen

Paul Stephen Horvath, 65, of Ypsilanti, formerly of Carleton, died Feb. 18.

Among his survivors are his wife, Donna M. (Coss) Horvath; children, Thomas Donald (Susan) Horvath of Ann Arbor, Robert David Horvath and Paula Ann Horvath, both of Belleville; sisters, Louise Horvath, Cathy Sprouse and Mary Ann Ropp, and a granddaughter, Adelaide Elizabeth Horvath.

Mr. Horvath retired from the Ford Motor Co. Woodhaven plant in 1999. He was a member of the East Rockwood Gun Club and the Carleton Sportsmans Club.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Funeral services were at St.

Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville where Mr. Horvath was a member. Father Thomas H. Cusick officiated.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

NAVARRE, Margaret Rose

Margaret Rose Navarre, 90, a resident of Belleville for 65 years, died Feb. 14.

Among her survivors are her children, Helen (Ora) Towler of Belleville, Ronald (Marie) Navarre of Brooklyn, Mich., Donald (Mary) Navarre of Atlanta, Mich. and Rudolph (Sarah) Navarre of Honenwald, Tenn.; 15 grandchildren, and many, many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Roselawn Memorial Park.

FORSYTH, Josephine

Josephine B. Forsyth, 77, of Romulus, died Feb. 17.

Among her survivors are her sons, Gary Sokolowski of Shelby Glennie, Mich. and Bruce (Anna) Sokolowski of Shelby Township; a daughter, Diana Grzelakowski of Warren; step-sons, Ronald S. (Sandy) Forsyth of Taylor and Steve A. Forsyth of Dundee; a step-daughter, Roberta (Paul) Hale of New Mexico; seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Forsyth retired from the Marriott Corp. Host International in 1988 after 31 years of employment. She was a member of St. Alfred's Catholic Church.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus with Father Alexander Wytrwal of St. Stephen Catholic Church officiating.

Interment was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

BURDEN, Margaret

Margaret "Punkin" Carol Burden, 36, of Belleville, died Feb. 18.

Among her survivors are her father, William G. (Melinda) Burden, Sr. of Owensboro, Ky.; her mother, Sue (Shelly Burlett) Burden of Belleville; siblings, Becky Debono of Belleville, William "Bill" (Erin) Burden, Jr. of Wayne, April (Adam) Ray, Robert Burden and Kathy Burden, all of Owensboro, Ky.; a niece Barbara Reilly of Belleville; nephews Hunter Ray of Owensboro, Ky. and David Burden of Wayne; her former husband, Brian Kurzenick of Tecumseh; her grandmothers, Alice Estes and Margaret Newbell, both of Westland, and her companion, Jason Ballard of Riverview.

Ms. Burden was employed by Ford Motor Co at the truck plant in Wayne for more than 15 years. She was a member of UAW Local 900.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in

Belleville with Pastor Chuck Ozment officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

HOLLAND, James

James Walter Holland, 61, a life long resident of Romulus, died Feb. 19.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 40 years, Spicie Sue Holland; daughters, Ruth Barnett of Melvindale and Janet (Lloyd) McMillon of Romulus; his mother, Phyllida Huff of Florida; a brother, Benjamin Walter Holland of Grass Lake; sisters, Beverly McCullough of Ypsilanti and Martha Markin of Adrian, and grandchildren, Destiny McMillon, Sydney Gerald and Jordan Barnett.

Mrs. Holland attended St. Anthony Academy and was a 1962 graduate of Belleville High School.

He served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army for 14 years.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

TOFFAN, Mabel

Mabel L. Toffan, 91, of Romulus, died Feb. 20.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Sylvia (Harold) Dubisky of Romulus; 13 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

Mrs. Toffan was a teacher at St. Aloysius Catholic School when it was first established during the 1950s.

Father Festus Ejimadu of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, where Mrs. Toffan was a member, celebrated a funeral mass for her.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

NEWSOM, Emma

Emma Newsom, 77, of Westland, died Feb. 23.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Patricia S. (Ronald) Maitland of Westland; brothers, Melvin (Liza) Johnson of Prestonburg, Ky., Frederick (Sharon) Johnson of Smiths Grove, Ky., and Charles Braham, also of Smiths Grove; sisters, Pearl Newsom of Robison Creek, Ky., Mae (Fred) Newsom of Barrett, W. Va., Mazie (French) Bates, of Louisville, KY., and Mollie (Ralph) Slone of Lexington, Ky.; a granddaughter, Jennifer, and great-grandchildren, Breanna and Nathan.

Mrs. Newsom was formerly Romulus resident.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Pastor Robert J. White of Grace Baptist Church in Belleville officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery in Romulus.

WITKOWSKI, Shirley Marie

Shirley Marie Witkowski, 75, a 30-year resident of Van Buren Township, died Feb. 18.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Donna Marie Witkowski of Belleville; a sister,

Betty Wilmot of Brighton; nieces, Pat (Dennis) West of Ubyly, Mich. and Nancy Roy of Brighton; a great-niece, Jennifer Roy of Roseville, and several cousins.

Mrs. Witkowski was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville.

Interment of cremains was at Michigan Memorial Park.

Arrangements were entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

YORK, Norma

Norma J. York, 81, of Augusta Township, died Feb. 27.

Among her survivors are her children, Norma Jean McLaughlin of Belleville, Edward J. (Sarah) York of Deatsville, Ala., William B. (Charlene) York of Belleville and Mark A. (Frances) York of Canton Township; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. York was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

THURSTON, Betty Ann

Betty Ann Thurston, 82, of Belleville, died Feb. 26.

Among her survivors is her husband of more than 62 years, Chester L. Thurston; brothers, Robert C. (Ruth) Akans of Saline and David Jack (Dorothy) Akans of Woodhaven, and a sister, Peggy (Floyd) Stabnau of Belleville.

Mrs. Thurston was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Belleville.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

ROOTS, Carl Louis

Carl Louis Roots, 55, of Inkster, died Dec. 31.

Among his survivors are his brothers, Roosevelt and Charles Roots and his sisters, Lillian, Geri, Barbara, Joyce, Catherine, Shirley and Pamela.

Funeral services were at Christ Temple Church of Inkster with the Rev. Luther Jenkins officiating.

Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

JACKSON, William "Neil"

William "Neil" Jackson, 54, of Westland, died Feb. 22.

Among his survivors are his wife, Gail, children, Kristal (Mike), Kelly (Mat), Kat and Kim Mitchell (Joe); siblings, Shirley, Earl, Sue, Cindy, Frances, Kenneth and Paul, and grandchildren, Shelby, Amanda and Dylin.

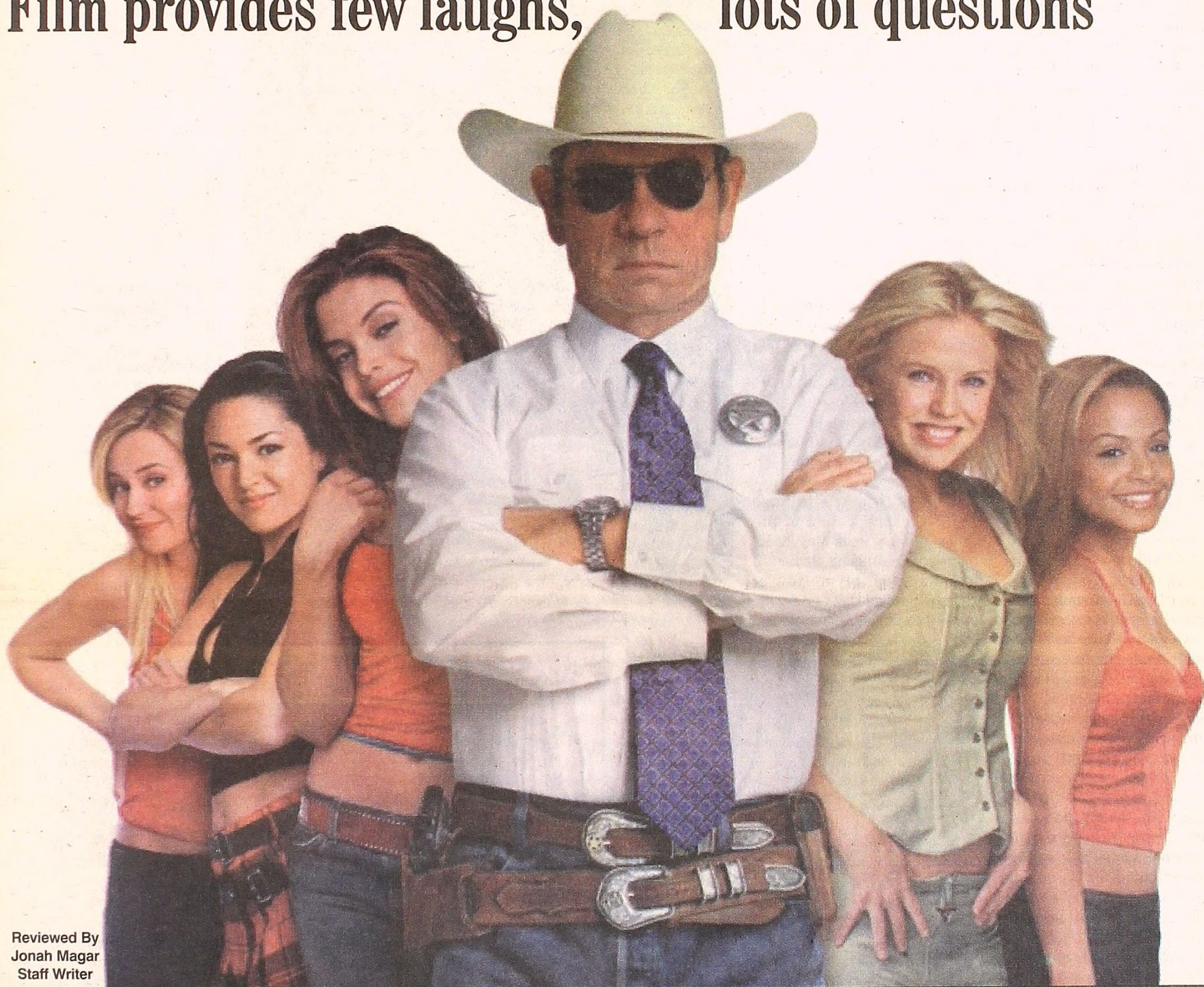
Funeral services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne with the Rev. Bob McDonald officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

THE SCENE

MAN OF THE HOUSE

Film provides few laughs, lots of questions



Reviewed By
Jonah Magar
Staff Writer

Man of the House, which opened Friday, might strike a humorous chord with some audience members. Others, like me, might be laughing at the absurdity of it all.

Perhaps it was because the movie was virtually plotless, perhaps it was because the cheerleaders that fill most scenes so wonderfully fulfilled the ditz stereotype, or perhaps it was because of Roland's (Tommy Lee Jones) ridiculous puppy dog-eyed interaction with them, but in any case, I laughed.

Over-characterization played a big role in this spontaneous, touching, not-quite-thrill-ride. Jones played (surprise!) the same lawful hardcase he plays in everyone's favorite movies (*Men In Black*, *U.S. Marshals* etc) with a touch of out-of-place sentimentality here and there.

This movie was, if nothing else, a rare opportunity to see Jones wearing a beautifying facial mask, complete with cucumber eye covers, and Cedric the Entertainer in a cheerleading uniform,

bustin' a move.

Five cheerleaders accidentally witness a murder: OK. Can they agree on any single characteristic of the shooter? Nope. Why? They're perfectly stereotyped airheads. So in order to keep



safe the girls that couldn't even decide whether the shooter had facial hair, or was 5 or 6 feet tall, Jones moves in with them, installing security cameras throughout their house. Of course, the shooter needs to kill them, even though

all they can do for police is rate the hotness of every mug shot on file.

Jones, who had taken police work as his mistress and divorced his wife, can't communicate with his daughter, a high school senior. While this situation

could have potentially developed, the focus doesn't stay there. In fact, the focus doesn't really stay anywhere at all.

Thinking back, I realized that seeing the trailer and seeing the film were of

about the same value. One part eye candy, one part big name stars to draw an audience, and one part random excuse to make a movie combined to an almost accidentally entertaining film.

To complete the disjointed sequences there is, of all things, a wedding. The first thing I thought when that scene opened was, "Alright, who's getting married?" There are enough loose ends to macramé a bedspread. Does Roland get in touch with his daughter? Why would two people get married after one date? What the heck was the point of the officers watching the hidden video cameras in the house?

It's questions like these that make me worry that there may be a sequel to this film. Those questions provide just as many plot ideas as went into this movie.

Sure, its humor was a hit-or-miss accident borne of absurdity—it nevertheless had its moments—but what can you expect from a movie whose production was probably an accident in itself?

THE SCENE

Art club plans local exhibition

Jonah Magar
Staff Writer

Fifty years ago, the Three Cities Art Club was formed to promote the arts in Plymouth, Northville, Livonia and surrounding communities.

The membership has changed throughout the years, but the mission is still the same.

"We try to bring love of art to the community," club president Marilyn Meredith said.

The club will start this year with an exhibit of member-selected works at the new Village Theatre in Canton Township.

Club members urge artists of any skill level, patrons of the arts, or even just art lovers to attend meetings where they can enjoy professional demonstrations and workshops, presentations and art-work critiques.

Attendance at the first three meetings is free and does not require membership.

Meetings typically take place from 7-9 pm on the first Monday of each month, September through June, at the Plymouth Township Hall, with select workshops at D&M Art Studio.

At the March 7 meeting, member Ilene Tarkington will critique up to two items of any member's artwork in progress. That particular meeting will take place at Canton Township Hall.

"This is a very popular event," Meredith said, "since everyone learns from suggestions from an expert."

The best part of being in the club, Meredith said, is the camaraderie, exposure, and that it helps people to stay involved in art without taking art classes. It also provides the benefits of working with various media such as clay and pen and ink.

"It motivates me to continue my artwork so I have something to exhibit," Meredith said.

Membership costs \$20, and entitles members to art supply discounts, free participation in club meeting-workshops, a month-

ly newsletter, and the opportunity to participate in art shows if the member is 18 or older.

Currently at 30 members, twice the membership of seven years ago, the notable local artists in the club include Byron Reed, Meena Schaldenbrand, Ilene Tarkington and Sharon Dillenbeck.

Club members are currently working on murals at the Plymouth Historical Museum

depicting a chronological sequence of life in Plymouth as it evolved, according to Meredith.

Parkside

Gallery and Plymouth businesses such as Michigan Made and More and Clearly You are club sponsors. Merchants who donate to the Three Cities Art Club receive free advertising in club event programs.

The club projects a minimum of four well-attended events this year, according to Meredith.

The Village Theatre show will continue from April 11 through May 1.

After that, members have planned a spring show at the Canton Library from May 12-15, an annual fundraising auction in June, and possibly a show at ArtCraft in Royal Oak and another show this fall.

"We try to bring love of art to the community."

Marilyn Meredith



Vincent Maiorana, an art instructor from Canton Township, demonstrates some techniques at a meeting of the Three Cities Art Club.



Southwest Window, by Meena Schaldenbrand, international award winning fiber artist will be on display next month during the Three Cities Art Club show.

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SPORTS

Round two
Tigers overcome Eagles, win conference

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Watching the Belleville Tigers and the Romulus Eagles go at it Friday night was like watching Muhammad Ali fight George Foreman or Joe Frazier – heavy-weight masters belting it out for the championship.

It was no “Rumble in the Jungle” or a “Thrilla in Manila,” but it was probably one of the best high school games this season filled with drama, tension and plenty of action revolving around one prize – a Mega Red Championship.

From the time the players’ Air Jordans squeaked across the floor and lined up in neat pairs for the National Anthem until the final buzzer blared, 10 guys at a time battled it out – heart and soul – on the hardwood of Romulus High School. And it was Belleville who pulled out a rope-a-dope style, 59-55, victory against Romulus in the season finale to win their fifth consecu-

tive title.

Drama

Romulus’ 80-43 victory against the Tigers on Friday, Jan. 28 in Belleville set the stage for the rematch. With the loss – their only defeat of the season – Belleville only had a chance to tie for the championship if they defeated the Eagles last Friday.

But Ypsilanti upset Romulus, 71-70, a week earlier – leaving the door open for Belleville to walk in and win the championship outright.

They took full advantage.

“We knew they were not 37 points better than us,” said Belleville Coach Mike Krogel, who has led the team to their last four conference titles. “The goal was to come out and prove it. And we did.”

Tension

The home crowd booed senior Anre Partee when his name was announced during the line-up introduction. He left Romulus after last season and transferred to Belleville, where he started at

point guard since the beginning of this season.

The former Eagle led the Tigers with a game-high 18 points.

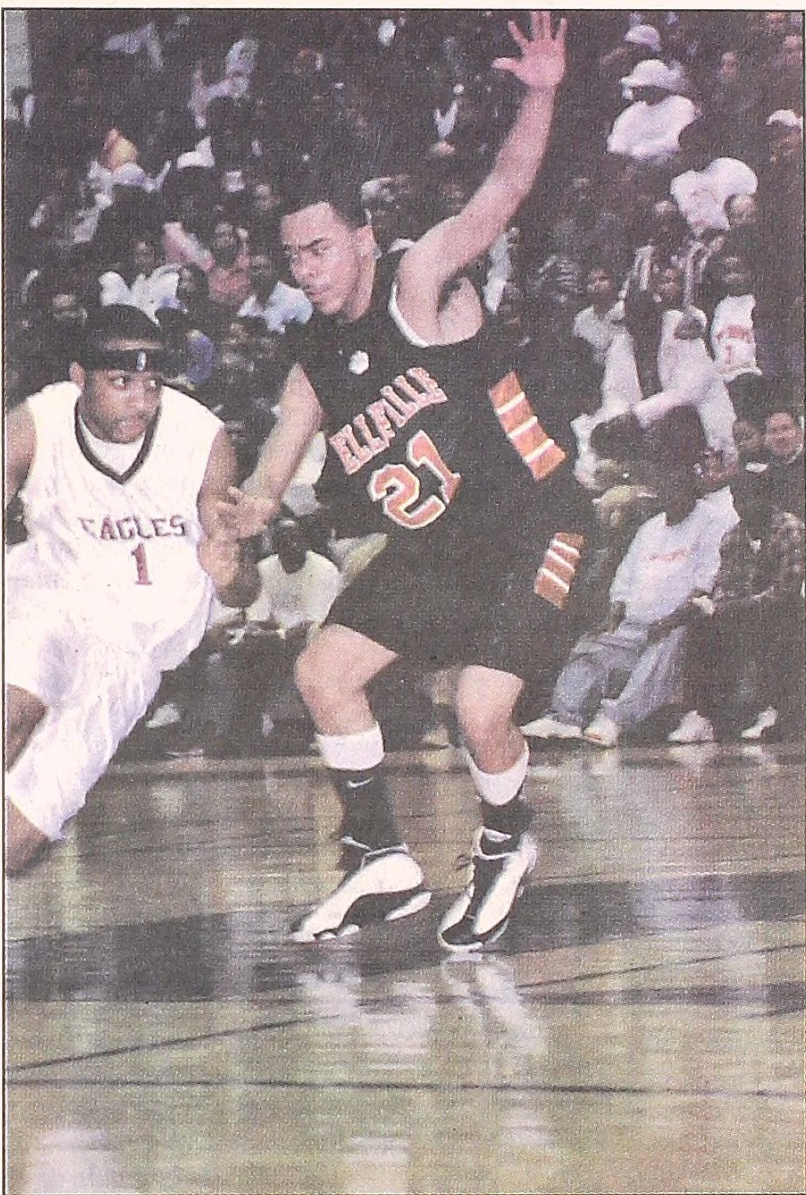
He scored half of the team’s points in the first quarter with four and he hit a huge triple in the third to put the Tigers up, 47-44. He also hit for 6 of Belleville’s 9 points in the fourth, including two from the line with about 25 seconds left. That gave the Tigers a 58-55 advantage.

He missed out on the first meeting, so he was more ready than anybody to get the game started, according to Krogel.

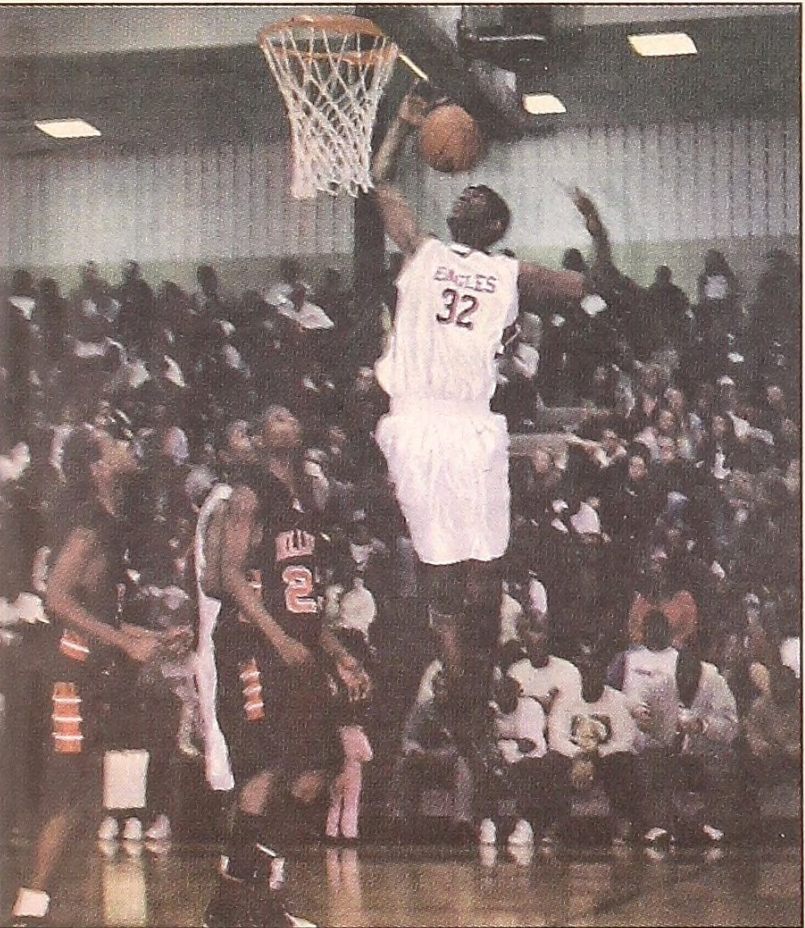
“Since he missed the first game he had double the adrenaline pumping through him,” he said. “He didn’t want to lose this game. It wasn’t so much to prove to Romulus that he could play, but to make sure that Belleville played a good game. He wanted to make sure that we recovered from that 37-point loss.”

Romulus Coach Nate Oats knew Partee would be a factor in the game but his team couldn’t contain him.

“The game meant everything to him,” Oats said. “He played the game of his life and had plenty of motivation.”



Belleville's Josh Samarco (21) defends against Romulus' Jason Gibson in the conference championship game Friday night at Romulus High School. The Tigers pulled out a 59-55 victory.



Romulus' 6-foot-9 center, Devin Searcy (32), nabs a rebound on Belleville's end of the court.

Action

Belleville was against the ropes when Romulus led, 15-8, after the first quarter. Senior guard Isaac Kindell opened the second with a double and junior forward Leon Freeman followed with a slam dunk-showing the crowd that they were down, but not out.

The dunk wasn't a knock-out punch but it did bring the Belleville side of the gym to its feet and changed the momentum of the game.

Partee hit a freebie to make it a two-point game, 15-13, but Romulus' Dante Williams countered with a double. Belleville responded again. Freeman and sophomore forward Tommie Clark countered with back-to-back triples to retake the lead for the Tigers. Freeman followed with another double and, sec-

onds later, added his second slam of the quarter for a 21-17 lead.

From there on it was nip and tuck the rest of the way. Belleville managed a four-point lead, 32-28, at the end of the half.

”

We knew they
were not
37 points
better than us.

Belleville Coach
Mike Krogel

Romulus opened the third with a basket from Williams but the Tigers went on a 9-0 run, which gave them a 41-30 advantage. The Eagles battled back to

within four when senior Geryn Reese found the hoop for two and senior point guard Jarret Smith hit a triple and two free throws. Belleville was on top, 50-42, at the end of the third.

Partee started the fourth with a couple of deuces to make it a 10-point game, 54-44, but Romulus' senior forward Avery Stephenson, Smith and Reese combined on a 10-0 run and knotted the score at 54 with about 3:35 remaining.

Belleville's defense held the Eagles to just one free throw the rest of the way. After Partee hit his two free throws, Freeman intercepted a pass and Clark hit one from the line for the 59-55 victory.

Krogel said that defense was definitely a big contributor to the victory.

“Defensively we held them to

See Hoops, page 13

Canton hoopsters fall to Central in conference finale

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Canton Chiefs basketball squad's dreams of a conference tournament championship were doused Friday night by the Walled Lake Central Vikings.

Central overcame a second-half deficit to earn a 67-60 victory in overtime.

“We thought that we had them beat, but we let it slip away,” said Canton Coach Charlie Paye.

Canton was up 57-53 with

about two minutes left when their all-conference senior point guard Andy Cortellini rolled his ankle and didn't return for the rest of the game. He finished with a game-high 18 points and assisted on three others.

With Canton's top ball handler on the bench, Central hit a jumper and two free throws to knot the score at 57. Canton still had 20 seconds on the clock to put the game away, but senior guard David Calille's shot was partially blocked. The ball ended up in the hands of senior

guard Jason Houdek, who took a shot that went half way in and rimmed out, according to Paye.

Then Calille had a chance at the buzzer and lofted a full-court shot that did exactly the same thing – it looked like it was going to fall through the iron but popped back out. Calille, an all-division selection, finished the night with 15 points.

In overtime Canton only mustered up three points while Central went 8-for-8 from the line to put the contest away. They were 23 of 27 for the game,

It looked promising for Canton at the beginning when they came back from a 12-3 deficit. They cut the Viking's lead to three, 15-12, and kept it close through the second, where Central held on for a 27-22 advantage at the half.

After the intermission Canton came out on fire. They outscored Central, 23-12, and overtook the lead, 45-39. Senior center Kevin Thornton scored eight of his 16 points in the quarter. He also had five rebounds and four blocks in the game.

Canton widened the lead to 52-44 in the fourth but Central doused the fire with a 9-3 run in the fourth quarter to make it a two-point game, 55-53. Then Canton made it 57-53 before Cortellini went down. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Brad Guldán led Central with 20 and Brad Burkhardt added 14.

“It was a great game to watch as a fan,” Paye said. “We have to give them (Central) credit; they came out and did what they had to do to win.”

Canton reaches 'big goals', tops Spartans

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A team that sets goals and achieves them should not only be respected but possibly feared, too.

The Canton Chief varsity hockey team set a lofty goal of scoring 100 goals this season.

Guess what. They did.

Although hitting their mark helped them get through the season with a 14-6-3 record, they didn't do it for their benefit, alone.

They did it for the good of the Children's Hospital of Michigan oncology ward.

All season team members have been collecting pledges from local businesses for each goal scored, with 100 as the goal.

When Garret Hyman scored the team's second of nine goals in the second period against Dakota High School last Wednesday the mission was accomplished.

"We're pretty excited about it," said Canton Coach Mike Behen.

With games against Stevenson and Oxford the Chiefs have now

scored 120 goals this season - and they still have the regional tournament to play through.

The team made an early night of things when they shut out Dakota, 10-0, by the second frame.

Things started out sluggish on both ends. Canton's senior defenseman Mike Kondratek put the only goal of the first period on the board. But Canton snapped out of it in the second to score nine more. Hyman scored three, as did sophomore forward Brad Barath. Junior forward Andy Barylski added two and freshman defenseman Clark Albers knocked one in. Junior forward Brett Giacomino assisted on three of the goals.

Senior goalie Tony Hylko and freshman goalie Kevan Swanberg split time in net for the win.

Canton 4, Stevenson 1

The big win of the week was against a stout Livonia Stevenson team, though.

The Chiefs put the pedal to the metal and raced to a 4-1 victory against the Spartans on Friday



Canton's senior forward Bryan Wioncek readies for a shot against Dakota last Wednesday night. Canton won the game, 10-0, and went on to defeat Livonia Stevenson on Friday night

"We just came out and controlled the game. Everyone played a disciplined, smart game and everyone was where they were supposed to be; everyone took responsibility."

night.

Canton's senior defenseman Pat Davison got things rolling in the first, when he scored the lone goal about midway through the period. Senior forwards Reece McCabe and Bryan Wioncek notched the assists on the play.

Stevenson bounced back early in the second. John Anderson, from Marcus Voran, evened the score, 1-1. However, Canton was quick to retaliate with a goal from McCabe 15 seconds later. Wioncek recorded the lone assist.

A one-goal lead wasn't enough for the Chiefs. Toward the end of the period, Giacomino made it a 3-1 game with help from Davison

and Wioncek. Early in the third Hyman, from Aaron Amin, put the game away, 4-1.

Canton out shot Stevenson 44-21. Hylko was huge in net for Canton. He stopped 20 shots, including key saves in the first to keep it a 1-0 game, according to Behen.

"Stevenson has a pretty tough team," Behen said. "We just came out and controlled the game. Everyone played a disciplined, smart game and everyone was where they were supposed to be; everyone took responsibility."

Kondratek was outstanding on defense," he added. "The entire defense has really picked up

their game for us lately."

Canton 8, Oxford 0

Canton had another blowout on Saturday when they took on and defeated Oxford, 8-0.

Wioncek led the offensive assault with three goals and three assists. McCabe added two goals and two assists while Kondratek added two scores and an assist. Senior forward Paul Stevens added one tally in the onslaught. Giacomino had a three-point night with three assists.

Senior goalie Jon Bonham shut Oxford out in the first period before Swanberg finished off the game in the final two frames.

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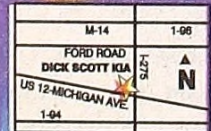
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Webb, Phillips head to state wrestling tournament

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

"It was close...for a half."
That's what Casey Randolph, Canton's varsity wrestling coach, said after the Chiefs lost last Wednesday, 50-15, to one of the top teams in the state: Temperance Bedford.

Things went well for the Chiefs for the first eight matches of the team regional competition. They were only down 22-15, but then the unthinkable happened: they lost their last six matches — three of them by pin.

"They bumped some of their best kids around to take out our wins," Randolph said.

The slide started at the 152-pound weight class, when Canton suffered a difficult loss. Canton's Marwan Faraj kept pace with Bedford's Mike Steffen through the first period. The score was just 4-2 in favor of Bedford, but

22 seconds into the second Steffen pinned Faraj for the win. From there it was all down hill for the Chiefs.

Amberg lost his match, 1-4, at 160 pounds. Then 171-pounder Pat McWhirter lost 2-12 to last year's state runner-up Kevin Zink. P.J. Caram, at 189, lost to Jade Heiserman, 2-4. And to finish the meet, 215-pounder Pete Bonnell and heavyweight Donnie Laramie were both pinned.

It wasn't all bad news for the Chiefs. Ryan Schnettler, at 103, started the competition out right when he pinned Justin Smith in 2:58. Their next three matches were tough ones. Nick Poole, a 112-pounder, was pinned by Kris Lewis in 5:37, Sam Santilli, at 119, was pinned by Craig Gin in 57 seconds.

Another tough loss came in the 125-pound weight class. Canton's Jay Fleischmann was

*I was o.k. with the loss. I wasn't mad,
because we wrestled a good team
and it's not like the kids were laying down or anything.*

Casey Randolph

pinned in 3:22 by James Fischer.

"We expected to win that one," Randolph said. "When he pinned us we got caught and couldn't get out."

After that, Canton's dominators took over. At 130 Corey Phillips defeated Collin Arnold, 4-1, and Ryan Webb, at 135, defeated Alex Ortman, 6-4, which helped get the Chiefs back on track. Alex Freitag lost, 7-19, against Tyler Johnson in the 140-pound weight class, but 145-pounder Konrad Konsitzke countered with a 2-0 win against Alex Wells to make it a 22-15 match before the six-match slide.

"I was okay with the loss," Randolph said. "I wasn't mad, because we wrestled a good team and it's not like the kids were laying down or anything."

Of the five wrestlers that made it through to the individual regional competition on Saturday, two of them will have the opportunity to wrestle for a state championship next week at the Palace in Auburn Hills.

Phillips (130) won all three of his matches; he defeated Fordson's Jason Ball, 7-2, in the first round; and Chris Gruenberg, of East Detroit, 7-6, to move into the finals. There he

beat Justin Smith from Churchill, 8-2. It was the two wrestlers' fifth time meeting this year.

"That was probably the best Corey has wrestled all year," Randolph said.

Webb (135) was the champion of his division with a 5-0 win against Livonia Franklin's Cameron Davidson. He also pinned Salem's Scott Fysh in 5:12 in the semi-final match and then defeated Catholic Central's Sean Dong, 5-2.

As hard as they wrestled, McWhirter (171), Amberg (160) and Konsitzke (140) didn't make it out of the regional competition.

Konsitzke and Amberg, both juniors, will have another shot at it next year.

"I think they will respond in a positive manner and this will drive them," Randolph said. "I'm looking forward to both of them being strong leaders on the team next year."

Hoops - Belleville Tigers, Romulus Eagles set stage for round 3 at district Championship

FROM PAGE 10

55 when they normally score in the 70s; so that was big," he said.

Freeman recorded another double-double with 15 points and 17 rebounds, while Clark added 12 points and seven rebounds. Kindell stepped it up and hit for

10 points, grabbed eight rebounds, stole the ball four times and assisted on three other baskets. Krogel said Samarco was a force on defense, holding Romulus' Williams to just eight points with four of those from the line.

"Belleville had something to

prove," Oats said. "They wanted it a little more than we did. They came out ready to play and we didn't."

Smith led Romulus with 14 and Stephenson added 12.

Round Three

Just because Belleville won the conference doesn't mean that

the fight between the two rival teams is over.

Districts started this week and, depending on the results from the Monday and Wednesday games, there's a distinct possibility that Romulus and Belleville could meet at center stage for round three with a higher stake

at hand — a Class A, District 15 championship.

"I'd like to meet them again in the district championship," Oats said. "I wouldn't be disappointed if Wayne beats them, but I would like to see them again and be the ones to knock them out."

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Vikings split final week

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It was a fitting end to a tough season when Inkster put everything together and mustered up a 67-65 victory against Woodhaven on Friday night.

Inkster's young team struggled all year to reach a .500 overall record (10-10). They went 4-8 in the Mega White Conference.

The Vikings have started out games flat all year and continued to do so last week. After coming off of a disappointing loss against Dearborn last Tuesday, the Vikings dug deep and overcame first-half deficit to pull out the win against Woodhaven.

They fell behind, 22-14, after one quarter and further behind in the second. Woodhaven went into the locker room at halftime with a 10-point advantage, 39-29.

But the second half was a completely different story, according to Inkster Coach Gerald Paschal.

"Like night and day," he said.

In the first half the Vikings turned the

ball over 13 times and only had four assists. They turned things around in the second with 15 assists, but only five turnovers.

"We scored 67 points and our highest scorer had 10," he said. "That means they we spread the ball around, which we need to do more."

Inkster outscored Woodhaven in the third frame, 16-7, which brought them within one point, 46-45. With about 4:00 left in the third they caught up to Woodhaven at 42 and remained close the rest of the quarter.

J.J. Snelling gave the Vikings a boost when he hit a triple with about 3:00 remaining in the fourth. The shot gave them a big enough lead so they could hang on for the win, according to Paschal.

Sophomore guard Anre Goree, freshman forward Alphonso Lewis and junior forward John Brown all scored 10 points each for Inkster.

Inkster also started out flat against Dearborn last Tuesday but fell, 67-57.

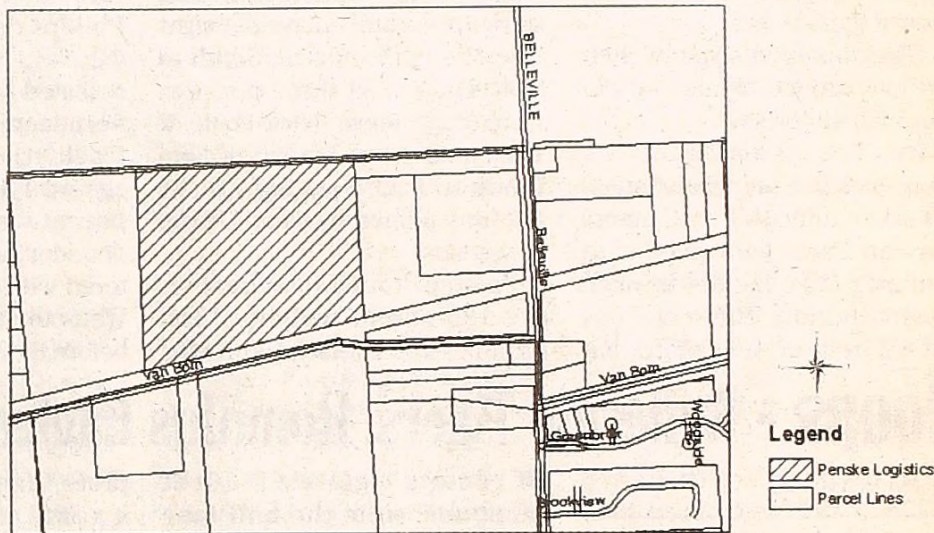
Brown led the Vikings with 10 and Johnny Crawford added 9.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday March 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, by rezoning parcel number V-125-83-013-99-0011-000. This property is located on the west side of Belleville Road between Michigan Ave and Van Born Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting to rezone from M-1 Light Industrial District to M-2 General Industrial District. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., March 9, 2005 the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 3, 2005

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CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC NOTICE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM 2005/2006 PROGRAM YEAR FINAL STATEMENT

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the Romulus City Council voted on February 14, 2005, to adopt the following projects utilizing Wayne County, Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The primary objectives are to assist low to moderate income families directly or provide benefits in areas where 51% of the residents are low to moderate income, such as replacing the urban infrastructure of streets, improve recreational facilities and programs and assist in meeting special needs of the elderly and physically disabled.

2004 FINAL PROJECTS:

ACTIVITY/Location	CDBG ALLOCATION:	Also From Program Income	
Senior Services - Citywide 36515 Bibbins Chore/minor home repair services, Transportation, education Recreation & staffing	\$30,600.00	\$4,400.00	<u>\$35,000</u>

Senior Center - New Construction 36525 Bibbins, Romulus, MI 48174 \$3.4 mil bonded construction of a new, approx. 15,000 sq. ft., senior center behind current bldg. - These CDBG funds were pre-committed until 2013, a ten year period. (with an estimated reduced allocation of 5% annually)	\$240,400.00
--	--------------

Administration (10%) from Program Income: \$27,100.00

TOTAL Allocation: \$271,000.00 \$31,500.00

IN ADDITION, the city anticipates receiving at least \$50,000.00 for emergency housing rehabilitation through repayment of liens/ revolving funds (program income) and will not be applying for additional housing rehabilitation funds.

The above activities will meet HUD objectives by benefiting low and moderate income families, preserving deteriorating housing stock and enhancing parks and public facilities.

Publish: March 3, 2005

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE 2005 BOARD OF REVIEW

To the taxpayers of the City of Romulus: The Board of Review will meet in the Romulus City Hall, (Lower Level) Community Room, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174 on the following dates and times by APPOINTMENT ONLY for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll.

Meeting dates are as follows:

	Residential
March 14, 2005:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
March 15, 2005:	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	Commercial/Industrial
March 16, 2005:	9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers are as follows:

Classification	Ratio	Multiplier
Commercial	50%	1.0000
Industrial	50%	1.0000
Residential	50%	1.0000
Developmental	50%	1.0000
Personal	50%	1.0000

Review is by appointment only

Residents and Non-Residents alike may appeal by (1) making an appointment to appear before the Board OR (2) in writing (personal appearance is not required). The Board of Review MUST receive all written appeals no later than March 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Property owners may appoint and authorize a representative to appear on their behalf. All Representatives or Agents MUST submit (current) proof of authorization to act on behalf of the property owner as a prerequisite to appeal to the Board of Review.

To schedule an appointment, please call the City of Romulus, Department of Assessment at (734) 942-7520 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Publish: March 3, 2005

Meet the 'ELFs'

Volunteer program helps promote student literacy

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Elves have arrived at Rawsonville Elementary School, but they're not the type that come from the North Pole. These elves are literacy volunteers and they have come to spread cheer to children about the joys of learning to read and write.

The Early Literacy Volunteers (ELV) is a parent volunteer program to help students gain literacy skills. Parents, along with other volunteers, are paired up with a small group of students where they have the opportunity for discussion, the practice of reading and writing and praise from an

interested adult, according to Jolynn DeBuysscher, a Title 1 reading recovery teacher.

"Young students only get better at reading by reading," said DeBuysscher.

DeBuysscher and Barbara Zarow, another Title 1 reading recovery teacher, started the ELVs program this year to encourage and support young readers with more individual instruction.

"In this situation, the students have progressed immensely, but the rewards are not just for the students. The rewards for the adults are teaching someone something. It's a positive that we never expected," she said. "The



Volunteer Laura Welch and second grade teacher Kathy Campbell work with a small group of students—Avona Washington, Zackary Mason, D'Jon Dudley and Joey Roberts.

program also helps parents and volunteers learn how to work with children at home."

Cathy Gray, who volunteers for the ELV program four days a week, said she learns as much from the students as they learn from her.

"I love it," she said. "It's a lot of fun for me and the kids. I don't think they even realize that they're learning because they're having such a good time. This should be implemented in all the schools."

DeBuysscher said that the pro-

gram is always looking for more volunteers. For more information, or to become a Rawsonville ELV, contact the school at 734-482-9845.

"We have volunteers who don't even have children, but they just want to help out the schools," said DeBuysscher.

Police raid in Wayne takes 2 suspected drug dealers off streets

The Wayne Police conducted a raid on a home on Merriman Road last week and took two suspected drug dealers off the street.

Members of the Community Oriented Police Crime Reduction Unit (COPCRU) raided the house on Feb. 15, according to Lt. Tom Miller of the Wayne Police Department.

"It's a house that we've had a

lot of complaints on," he said. "There were a lot of kids hanging out there."

Inside, police found a large quantity of marijuana — more than 20 bags of it — as well as some other baggies and paraphernalia, Miller said. They also confiscated a sawed-off shotgun.

Police charged a mother and her son with several felony counts, according to Miller.

Forty-year-old Eileen Truit was charged with possession of the sawed-off shotgun, delivery of marijuana and maintaining a drug house. Her son, 18-year-old Jeremiah Turgeon was charged with those crimes as well as for felony firearm.

Both were arraigned this week at 29th District Court in Wayne. Truit was given a \$2,500 or 10 percent bond and posted it.

Turgeon was given a \$2,000 cash bond and remains in custody at Wayne County Jail. Both are scheduled for a preliminary court examination on the charges at 9 a.m. on Tuesday.

Miller said the traffic in and out of the house didn't stop while the police were there.

"These kids kept showing up at the house, wanting to party or buy their dope," he said.

Police gave out 16 additional tickets to the youths, either for frequenting a drug house or possession of the drugs.

He said the raid was a good one, and should have a big impact on the community.

"It'll send out a strong message to all the kids," Miller said. "The word will spread. They won't be going back there anymore."

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05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

1. Obituaries

MCVEY, Regina Marie, age 61, February 23, 2005. Beloved wife of Walter. Dearest mother of Wally, Jr., Michael (Kristie), and Joseph (Deborah). Loving grandmother of 8. Dear sister of Geraldine M. (Bill) Clemons, Suzanne M. (Gary) Zimmerman, Patricia A. (Jim) Godwin, Leo M.J. Rushlow, Daniel T. (Doris) Rushlow, Paul D. (Ellen) Rushlow. Dear sister-in-law of Lois Jean (Jim) Bale. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Laura Rushlow, parents-in-law Walter I. and Irene (Phillips) McVey, a grandson and a sister-in-law, Mary Ann Rushlow. Mrs. McVey was a charitable woman who donated to many needy organizations. When her boys were younger, she was active with the Cub Scouts as a den leader. Her hobbies included crocheting, playing cards, casino visits, tending to her flowers and collecting Beanie Babies. She was also an avid fisherwoman. Mrs. McVey was an animal lover, especially when it came to her "babies" Penelope, Midnight and Shadow. Services were held at Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon. Interment in Pioneer Cemetery.

POET, Cecelia, age 92 of Manchester, MI. Died Feb. 24, 2005. Born the daughter of Albert and Mary (Jazwa) Szyndlar on Nov. 15, 1912. Beloved wife of Andrew Poet who preceded her in death on Jan. 25, 2002. Dear mother of Stanley (Beverly) Poet. Loving grandmother of 4 and great-grandmother of 8. Dearest sister of Agnes Banotai and Stanley (Sophie) Szyndlar. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by an infant son and daughter, a brother (William) and two sisters (Josephine and Helen), and one infant great-grandson. Services were held March 1, 2005 at the First United Methodist Church of Saline where she was an active member. Cecelia was also very active in the community as a member of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau and the Kossel Ost Community Group. Interment will be at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI. The family is asking that memorial contributions be made to the Washtenaw Farm Council for the 4-H Youth Show, or the Saline Community Fair Homemakers Program

30. Help Wanted

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46. Private Instruction
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59. Auctions

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On March 8, 2005 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2001 Nissan Altima
4 Dr. White
1N4DL01D21C213709
1992 Pontiac Grand Am
2 Dr. Red
1G2NE1430NC208570

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

1992 Chevy Blazer
StWgn Red
1GNDT13Z2N2173773

1995 Ford Escort
2 Dr. Green
1FASP11J8SW260718

1989 Plymouth Voyager
StWgn Brown
2P4FH45J7KR325678

1991 Ford Explorer
4 Dr. Tan
1FMDU34X6MUD83970

1996 Ford Probe
2 Dr. Red
1ZVLT20A5T5107347

2000 Ford Taurus
4 Dr. Red
1FAPP55S4YG214494

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1986 Chevy Monte Carlo
2 Dr. Red
1G1GZ37G0GR213117

1996 Ford Econoline
Van Black
1FTFE24Y6THA16491

1994 Plymouth Sundance
2 Dr. Green
1P3AP24D3RN192054

34. Specialized Services

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4 Dr. Silver
1G1BL53EXMW144865

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4 Dr. Gold
2G4WB52K0V1439478

1984 Cadillac DeVille
2 Dr. Gray
1G6AM4783E9160178

1986 Mercury Gr. Marquis
4 Dr. Red
2MEBP95F2GX698255

1990 Pontiac Grand Am
2 Dr. Burgundy
1G2NE14U0LC330237

1991 Ford Escort
StWgn White
1FAPP15J2MW207404

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

On March 12, 2005, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 237 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

1985 CADILLAC 2D
1G6EL5781FE668085
44-1292-04
1996 FORD 2D
3FASP11J4TR150124
44-022-05
1986 VW 4D
WVGGA0168GW487762
44-058-05
1991 CHEVROLET 2D
1G1FP23E5ML122312
44-089-05
1989 FORD 4D
1FAPP36X4KK248507
44-179-05

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1992 MITSUBISHI 4D
JA3CR46V8NU059759
44-1276-03
2001 GMC PU
1GTCT19W218229204
44-1039-04
1997 MERCURY 4D
1MELM5047VA616408
44-1266-04
1995 FORD VN
1FTDA14U3ZA07072
44-023-05
1989 JEEP SW
1J4FJ58L4KL615424
44-045-05
1994 FORD SW
1FARP15J2RW241309
44-046-05
1986 CHEVROLET VN
1G8CM1526GB124992
44-115-05

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